

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 - 12, and 14 - 20 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 13 are canceled by the present amendment. Applicant is requesting reconsideration of the present application.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner is indicating that claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant is rewriting claims 4 and 14 in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner, thus placing claims 4 and 14 in condition for allowance. However, rather than rewriting claims 3 and 13, Applicant is (A) rewriting claim 1 to include the recital that was previously presented in claim 3, and (B) rewriting claim 11 to include the recital that was previously presented in claim 13, thus placing claims 1 and 11 in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5 - 12 and 15 - 20 are rejected. As mentioned above, Applicant is rewriting claims 1 and 11 to place claims 1 and 11 in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 5 - 10 depend from claim 1, and claims 12 and 15 - 20 depend from claim 11. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 2, 5 - 10, 12 and 15 - 20 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 - 12 and 15 - 20.

As mentioned above, Applicant is rewriting claims 4 and 14 in independent form, and rewriting claims 1 and 11 to include recitals that were previously presented in other claims. None of the amendments is intended to narrow the scope of any term of any claim. Therefore, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the terms of all of the claims.

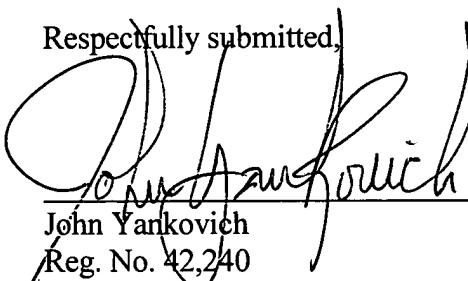
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Since this amendment neither raises new issues nor requires further consideration, entry is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that the present amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



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